



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

*The attachment to this memo  
printed as attachment 2 to  
to COMREX-D-15.8/5*

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, COMIREX

SUBJECT: Requirements for Satellite Photography of the United States  
for US Geological Survey Mapping Activities

1. The attached draft COMIREX paper resulted from review by the  
MC&G Working Group on 22 April 1969 and is forwarded for consideration  
by COMIREX.

2. It is recommended that this item be scheduled for the COMIREX  
meeting on 1 May 1969, if practicable.

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COLONEL, USA  
Chairman  
COMIREX MC&G Working Group

1 Enclosure  
Draft COMIREX Paper

DIA and NRO review(s) completed.

On file DOI release instructions apply.

*BEST COPY*  
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Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000400030057-4

## DRAFT COMIREX PAPER

SUBJECT: Requirements for Satellite Photography of the United States  
for US Geological Survey Mapping Activities

Reference: Attachment to USIB-D-46.2/4 dated 28 March 1968 and Memorandum  
for Holders to USIB-D-46.2/4 dated 5 April 1968

1. The US Geological Survey (USGS) of the Department of Interior with the support of the Bureau of the Budget has developed a capability (presently 50 man), located at Reston, Virginia, for the utilization of satellite photography for mapping. This secure facility of approximately 23,000 square feet became operational in November 1968. Principal activities for the next few years call for updating the National Topographic Map Series of the United States. The USGS facility has provided for a certain portion of its space for possible use of other government agencies desiring to use satellite photography.
2. Reference authorized the USGS to use KH-4 photography presently available of the conterminous United States, which is interpreted to pertain to all KH-4 photography of the conterminous United States, as it becomes available. Reference further cited responsibilities for sanitization procedures and physical security and charged COMIREX with carefully evaluating future USGS requirements for satellite photography citing the need for cost data and impact information.
3. The USGS has established a 1:250,000 map revision program calling for the completion of 35 sheets in FY 69, 70 sheets in FY 70 and 60 sheets annually in FY 71-73. This program will make use of all existing KH-4 photography, but since this program is predominantly an updating of man-made features, the USGS has established an objective calling for photography

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to be not more than three years old. The requirement for satellite photography coverage consistent with this program is a minimum of 400,000 square miles annually. This requirement can be met in part by programming NRO operational test coverage over areas where USGS has a current requirement for mapping. The programming of operational test coverage in this manner in the US was a basic premise supporting establishment of the USGS unit for utilizing satellite photography. Although existing coverage is predominantly 4 to 6 years old, practical use can be made of this photography for at least part of the area. Based on these considerations, it is estimated that future NRO operational test photography can be specifically programmed to meet at least one-half (200,000 square miles) of the USGS mapping requirements of the conterminous United States. A record will be kept depicting what additional photography has been acquired specifically to fulfill the USGS requirement. In selecting areas for map revision, the USGS will give practical consideration to establishing block areas of several contiguous sheets for TKH collection. Specific requests not met by operational test programs will be forwarded to ICERS.

4. The percent of film allocated for MC&G purposes outside the Sino-Soviet area has decreased from 29 percent in the 1965-67 period to approximately six percent for the past year. To satisfy the remaining USGS annual requirement of up to 200,000 square miles cited above, an increase of no more than one percent would be required.

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5. The USGS can make profitable use of small scale geodetic type photography (KH-5) to check the positional reliability of the 1:250,000 maps of the United States.

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6. It is recommended that the USIB approve the following for the conterminous United States area:

- a. NRO programming of KH-4 test coverage over USGS mapping requirements.
- b. NRO collection of additional KH-4 photography up to 200,000 square miles annually for the purpose of meeting the remaining USGS mapping requirements.

- c. USGS use of KH-5, [redacted] satellite photography for mapping.

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